

Articles from the "Lynchburg Virginian" Newspaper Regarding Joel Sweeney.

The Lynchburg Virginian, December 11, 1845- "Old Joe Sweeney"

"This inimitable Banjo Player is to perform at the Theatre tonight, (Thursday.) He is a native born Virginian, reared in old Buckingham (soon to be Appomattox.) and after an absence of several years in Europe, where he performed to the astonishment of the Crowned heads there, he was returned among us, and will make his original Virginia instrument gladder the hearts of our citizens and convulge their sides with laughter. He has with him Frank Bower the greatest Ethiopian extravaganza extant.."

The Lynchburg Virginian, July 2, 1848- "Appomattox"

"There will be a Barbecue and Dinner in celebration of the 4th. Of July next, at Clover hill- at which time there will be a Sabbath School address, and procession of the different schools- the Declaration of Independence read and an Address delivered on the occasion. A parade by the Troop and a band of music in attendance, by Joe Sweeney."

The Lynchburg Virginian, September 4, 1860- "The Military of Appomattox"

"For the last two days our county men have exhibited a military pride and spirit superior to that of days gone by, and in full keeping with the age and exigencies of the times.

Just at this moment, the men of the 174th ., Appomattox County Regiment are marching our streets, seated on horse-back and in vehicles, under the full influence of the drum, fife, banjo and violin, the Messrs. Sweeny (Robert and Samuel) occupying the most prominent position in the band of music. Their efforts on the violin and banjo stand unequaled, except by the world-renowned Joe Sweeney, who threw around the banjo the first halo of attraction and importance-demonstrating the fact that genius needs no royal instrument to excite the wonder and admiration of the world, for with the simple banjo, talented Joe secured the attention and presence of her Majesty, Queen Victoria. The Sweeneys are indeed a wonder!! A mere scientific in competition with them would be as little observed and respected as the chirping grasshopper amidst the booming cannon."*

*Robert Sweeney was a cousin to Joel and his brothers.





